

November 13, 2007

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
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Dear Supervisors:

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Laura Zucker
Executive Director

**JOHN ANSON FORD AMPHITHEATRE - PROPOSED SCHEDULE
"FORD AMPHITHEATRE – 2008 SEASON"
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the proposed roster for the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre's 2008 season.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to make the necessary expenditures within the approved 2007-2008 budget to implement the program.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

This is the annual implementation of the 2008 Summer Partnership Program, a summer performing arts series in the historic Ford Amphitheatre. The Summer Partnership Program, running from May through October, supports Los Angeles County resident arts organizations by assisting them to successfully present performances in The Ford's 1,245-seat amphitheatre. The Arts Commission provides significant marketing and presentation support to participating arts organizations which, in turn, provide the residents of Los Angeles County with a rich cultural sampling of performing arts of the region.

The roster proposed for the 2008 Summer Partnership Program Season includes thirty arts organizations producing forty-three events. The proposed roster brings ten new arts organizations to the Ford season. It is anticipated that the Ford Theatre Foundation will provide resources for approximately eight additional performances

for young audiences and a special distinguished artist event. Overall, the proposed schedule is consistent with previous Ford Amphitheatre seasons, reflecting the artistic merit, cultural diversity and geographic range of Los Angeles County.

The Arts Commission began programming the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre in 1993. To schedule the 2008 Ford summer season, the Arts Commission sent requests for proposals to more than 700 Los Angeles County arts organizations; 47 applications were received and reviewed by staff. Selections were based on artistic merit, producing experience, fiscal stability, suitability of proposed project to the venue and diversity in programming. On October 15, 2007, the Arts Commissioners reviewed and unanimously approved the attached proposed roster.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action is consistent with the County Strategic Plan Goals of Service Excellence and Fiscal Responsibility as the proposed 2008 series will provide the public with affordable access to quality arts programs and further public private partnerships within the Los Angeles arts community.

FISCAL IMPACT/ FINANCING

Funds have been allocated for this purpose as part of the Arts Commission's Fiscal Year 2007-2008 budget. Additional revenue comes from rental of the theatre, concessions, and donations from the Ford Theatre Foundation. There were 40 theatre rentals during the 2007 summer season and the Ford Theatre Foundation expects to raise \$453,000 by the close of calendar year 2007.

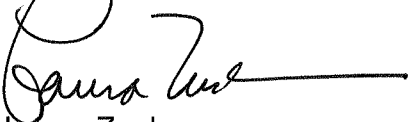
FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Not applicable.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Zucker
Executive Director

LZ:AD
Attachments (1)

c: Director, Parks and Recreation

Ford Amphitheatre **Proposed 2008 Summer Partnership Program Season**

*indicates organizations new to Partnership Program

Backhousedance*: *Backhousedance at the Ford*

An evening of contemporary dance, including audience favorites from the company repertory, *Shift* (2007) and *Sitting on January* (2004).

Baker & Tarpaga and Catch me Bird*: *Gnama Gnama Mana Mana Kono and Silk*
Theater company Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project presents the premiere of "Gnama Gnama Mana Mana Kono/Disorder Inside Order," a performance that will feature live percussion and dance. Catch Me Bird premieres "Silk," the latest chronicle in their reality performance series.

blue13 dance company: *Khel!*

A Bollywood Ballet that features live original music, electronic media from film clips, giant cartoon-like props, and the company's signature multi-genre performance style.

Bluegrass Association of Southern California: *Bluegrass at the Ford*

An annual concert presenting some of the best in contemporary and traditional American Bluegrass music.

Brazilian Nites Productions, Eyes of a Child Inc.: *A Bossa Nova Project*

A concert presenting two of Brazil's top emerging artists: Céu and Milton Nascimento.

Celtic Arts Center: *Celtic Arts Center Concert Series*

Fifth annual program of traditional and contemporary Celtic music, song, and dance.

Citysound Music*: *Strung Out*

Classical-pop crossover concert of arrangements for string quartet of songs by artists including: Radiohead, Pink Floyd, Joni Mitchell, David Bowie, Elvis Costello, and The Killers.

Culture Shock Dance Troupe*: *The Journey Continues*

Performance piece using hip-hop and street dance styles, visual images, music, spoken word, and choreography that brings L.A. stories to life.

Encuentro Jaranero de California*: *Noche Veracruzana*

An evening of music focusing on the *Son Jarocho* and *Huasteco* traditions of Veracruz, Mexico.

Festival of New American Musicals*: *Norman's Ark*

An original musical featuring a gospel choir that re-tells the Noah's Ark story in a contemporary, post-Katrina setting.

Film Independent: *Los Angeles Film Festival*

Seven evenings of interactive, event-oriented screenings.

FOCUSfish: *FOCUSfish Flying Circus*

FOCUSfish returns to the Ford with another visual feast of circus fun and dance.

Grandeza Mexicana Folk Ballet Company: *Mexico En Su Epoca de Oro*

A two-hour dance and live music Mexican folk show focusing on Mexico's "Golden Era."

INCA, the Peruvian Ensemble: *Fiesta Argentina 2008*

A night of Argentinean tango and music featuring dancers Sandor and Parissa, singer Martin de Leon and a quintet of traditional tango musicians.

Jazz Bakery: *Jazz Equinox*

A showcase of artists whose music embraces generations of jazz.

J.U.I.C.E: *Breaking the Cypher*

A multi-media street dance spectacular that will offer audiences a fresh vision of urban dance.

Kayamanan Ng Lahi Philippine Folk Arts*: *Ugat Pilipino: Filipino Roots*

A world premiere dance and music concert featuring a collaboration of leading practitioners of Philippine folk and traditional arts, including Kayamanan Ng Lahi Philippine Folk Arts, the BIBAK Dance Ensemble and the Pakaraguian Kulintang Ensemble.

Koffeehouse Music Production*: *An Evening of Independence: A Celebration of Singers, Songwriters and Music*

An evening of emerging musical talent featuring six to nine singer songwriters.

L.A. Jewish Symphony: *The Sephardic-Latino Connection*

A night of music, song, and dance showcasing the similarities of Sephardic music originating from Spain, Iraq, Iran, Morocco, Israel, and Yemen with music from Latin America.

Latin American Cinemateca of Los Angeles: *El tren fantasma*

Screening of a rare Mexican silent film entitled "El tren fantasma" (1926) accompanied by an original live music performance by Mexican jazz group "Ensamble Cine Mudo."

Outfest: *Outfest 2008 Under the Stars*

A five-night screening series that is part of Outfest 2008: The 26th Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

REPRISE! Best in Broadway: *Reprise! Best of Broadway at the Ford*

An evening featuring musical theatre's brightest performers singing Broadway's greatest hits.

Star Entertainment & Education Group 1 : *Los Grandes*

A concert tribute to Jorge Negrete, Pedro Infante and Lola Beltran by Mariachi Monumental, Conjunto Estrellas, Florencia Tinoco, Mauro Calderon and others.

Star Entertainment & Education Group 2: *Festival de Homenaje a Agustin Lara IV*

Annual concert celebration and tribute to the music of Agustin Lara.

Star Entertainment & Education Group 3: *Fiesta Mexicana VI—Sones, Bailes y Cantares*

Sixth annual variety show featuring the rich diversity of folkloric music and dance from Mexico.

Taiko Project: *Rhythmic Relations 2008*

An evening of new and traditional taiko repertoire, as well as premiere collaborative works with two guest artists—the Masanga Marimba Ensemble (Zimbabwean Marimba music) and the Arpana Dance Company (South Indian Bharata Natyam dance).

Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural: *Tia Chucha's Celebration of Community & Culture*

A benefit event for Tia Chucha's Centro Cultural which includes spoken word, comedy, dance, theater, and music showcasing the diverse L.A. cultural community.

Thai Health and Information Services, Inc.*: *Queen of the Chao Phraya*

A presentation of Thai classical music and dance, martial arts and fine arts in a contemporary production.

The Instrumental Women Project: *Lady Jazz in The Key of Grand*

A jazz string ensemble joins the 2008 Lady Jazz Band in a musical tribute to one of L.A.'s most revered jazz pianist and the evening's honoree, Karen Hernandez.

Viver Brasil Dance Company: *Retratos da Bahia* (Bahian Pictures)

An evening that celebrates the fusion of Afro-Brazilian traditional and contemporary music and dance.